

Iowa Outdoors

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

www.iowadnr.com

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REAP Congress Asks for Changes

GROUP SEEKS IMPROVEMENT TO NATURAL RESOURCE PROGRAM

DES MOINES – Citing the need for more local authority and full funding for the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program, 75 elected delegates Saturday voted in favor of major changes to the 15-year-old, multi-million dollar program that supports clean water, parks, habitat and historical resources in Iowa.

Enacted in 1989, the REAP program is steered by delegates elected from across Iowa who gather every two years to tell the legislature, governor and natural resources commission what the program needs to support those resources. The REAP Congress Saturday focused on two primary issues – funding REAP at the \$20 million per year that is authorized in the REAP Act, and strengthening the grassroots structure of REAP.

Jeff Vonk, DNR director, said the Congress provided the components of a “full funding action plan” in which the delegates and other REAP stakeholders will participate to achieve the \$20 million per year instead of the more typical half that amount. Delegates heard findings from an Iowa State University study that prove state investments in outdoor recreation are effective in growing local economies.

Mark Ackelson, president of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and co-chair of the REAP Alliance, said evidence from the ISU study and others “provide solid economic justification to improve state support of REAP projects that can also attract new Iowans and retain current citizens through quality of life enhancement.” The REAP Alliance is composed of more than 30 conservation and cultural organizations in Iowa.

Vonk said votes also favored making counties have a REAP plan before any REAP funds can be expended in a county.

“The delegates wanted strong county REAP committees and asked that the income from the sale of the natural resource license plates (the goldfinch/wild rose

specialty plate) come back to the county where the plate was sold, instead of going to the statewide REAP fund,” Vonk explained. Those funds would target local resource priorities.

“This would add to the authority and to the activity of county REAP committees, and should result in many more plates being sold, more local money for projects and more people actively engaged in the program. These are all positive measures,” he added.

The four state departments involved in REAP (DNR, Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Cultural Affairs and DOT) will work with the REAP Alliance to further develop the REAP Congress’ proposals over the next month. Vonk said that several state laws, administrative rules and policies would have to change to meet the objectives of the Congress.

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HIGH WATER HELPS FISH OUTLOOK

By Joe Wilkinson

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Heavy rain and high water this spring and summer created havoc in low-lying Iowa communities. On a lesser scale, it might have washed out your new lawn seeding or flushed away weekend plans. Say one thing for it, though, it’s good for the fish. This season’s soggy conditions should yield a fishing jackpot a couple years down the road.

High lake and stream levels often provide ideal reproduction conditions for most fish species. There are exceptions. Smallmouth bass, for instance, don’t fare well with swollen stream flows. The timing of high water can miss a spawning period altogether. For many Iowa reservoirs and lakes, though, Ma Nature’s timing was excellent.

“It’s been like a big spawning area out there, on Coralville Reservoir,” said Department of Natural Resources fisheries biologist Paul Sleeper. Sleeper’s management district includes the Reservoir, much of the Iowa River and Lake Macbride. “Flooding pushed the normal level up 20 to 21 feet. That had water going into the willows, the vegetation and shallow bays. Everything did really well.”

He likens it to flooding in the early 90s, when the DNR first stocked saugeye (hybrid sauger-walleye) fingerlings into Coralville. With normal conditions, survivors would hit lengths of 6 to 8 inches by the next season. “The next January and February, anglers were catching 12- to 14-inch long saugeyes,” recalls Sleeper. “The potential is there again for that. The surface area of the Reservoir was essentially doubled by the flooding. Now, all those baitfish are being squeezed into a smaller area, with the predator fish waiting for them. They are a tremendous food source.”

Each year, the DNR stocks walleyes, northern pike and other popular game fish and predator species to keep up with angler demand. Their survival and growth rates depend on the available food base. Good hatchery survival this spring more than doubled shipments of 2-inch walleye fingerlings to Coralville (205,000) and Macbride (74,000). Those followed stockings of 5 million 2-day old fry in the Reservoir and 1 million more

in Macbride. About 300,000 wiper fry (ocean striped bass/white bass cross) were added to Coralville. Macbride got 4,000, 3-inch northernns; stocked above the silt retention structure in the north arm. They'll make a dent in the carp population there before finding their way into the main lake.

Other lakes, streams and reservoirs get similar shipments. Depending on rain amounts, watershed size and related factors, they also face similar "growing" seasons. The impact sometimes shows up downstream, as well. That water blasting through the release structure at Coralville Dam, for instance, is carrying a lot of fish downstream. Among them will be up to 25,000 smallmouth bass. Not a normal "stock" species around here, the smallies come from the federal hatchery, along the Mississippi River at Genoa, Wis. The fingerlings were stocked in the Reservoir because of high water levels downstream. "They'll do well in the high water of the reservoir," says Sleeper. "Eventually, anglers will see them downstream, with some showing up in the lake, too."

For now, though, that angling advantage is not apparent. Muggy, hot conditions, with more time between bites, are making summer fishing more of a chore. "There's just so much food out there now, fishing success is slowing," admits Sleeper. That rain-soaked dark cloud, though, has a silver lining. In a couple years, the numbers of cacheable-size crappies, walleyes — and even a few smallmouth bass — will have anglers forgetting about the summer doldrums of '04.

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LAKE CONSTRUCTION APPROVED AT LOST GROVE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

DES MOINES – The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, announced the final Environmental Assessment (EA) for the lake construction at Lost Grove Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Scott County was approved June 22, when the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was signed.

The Proposed Alternative was selected, which will create an covering 350 surface acres. With this alternative the elevation of county road 220th Avenue will be raised to allow continued use by vehicular traffic. Shoulders will be added to the raised portion for safe parking and to permit shore fishing. A large culvert under the road will provide boats access to the upper end of the lake. Six locations will be developed for public access to the lake. Boat ramps will be constructed at three of these areas and restrooms present at two. Roads, parking areas and shoreline fishing areas will be developed at all six locations.

The other action alternative would be identical to the "proposed action" except that 220th Avenue would not be raised and would be covered by the impoundment waters.

The project is proposed by the Iowa DNR for funding through the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act, administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Projects funded by the Service are required to comply with NEPA and other associated Federal requirements including the Historic Preservation Act and the Endangered Species Act.

Printed copies of the final EA are available from Martin Konrad, Department of Natural Resources, 502 East 9th Street, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319; by fax at (515) 281-6794; or by e-mail at Martin.Konrad@dnr.state.ia.us. Copies are also available at the Service's Region 3 web site at <http://midwest.fws.gov/NEPA>.

For more information, contact Konrad at (515) 281-6976, or Ann Schneider with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at (612) 713-5146.

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PARK RANGERS KEVIN PAPE, TOM BASTEN PROMOTED TO DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

DES MOINES — DNR park rangers Kevin Pape and Tom Basten have been promoted to district supervisors within the Iowa state park system, bureau chief Kevin Szcodronski announced today.

Pape, who has been park ranger at Stone State Park, will become the supervisor for northwest Iowa, taking over for Mike Schoneboom who will be retiring July 30. Basten, who has been park ranger at Lake Anita State Park, will assume the role of supervisor in southeast Iowa, which has been vacant since early June.

Pape received a bachelor of science degree in fish and wildlife biology from Iowa State University. He began his career with the DNR in 1985 as a fisheries technician at Fairport on the Mississippi River in southeast Iowa. He began his park career three years later as a park attendant at Ledges State Park near Boone. In 1987, Pape was promoted to park ranger and has served as park ranger at A. A. Call and Stone state parks. He has also served as park superintendent over Stone, Lewis & Clark and Black Hawk state parks.

Some of Pape's noted accomplishments include securing \$100,000 in federal grant money for equestrian and mountain bike trail repair, development and implementation of Stone's ecosystem management plan, creation of the nonprofit "Friends of Stone Park," and recipient of the state parks bureau "Natural Resource Conservationist of the Year" award in 1996.

"I am excited to have the opportunity to work with the staff in the nine parks in the northwest district," says Pape. "I want to hand down to future generations state parks that are well-kept, safe and enjoyable."

Basten received a bachelor of science degree in biology and education from the University of Northern Iowa. Basten began his career at Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area in northeast Iowa in 1991. After a short stint at Lake Icaria with the Adams County Conservation Board, he returned to the state parks bureau as park attendant at Lake Macbride State Park near Iowa City. He also worked at Lake Manawa and Bobwhite state parks before serving as park superintendent over Waubonsie, Lake of Three Fires and Viking Lake state parks. For the past two and a half years, Basten has been park ranger at Lake Anita State Park in southwest Iowa.

Some of Basten's accomplishments include overseeing the conversion of land at Lake Anita into prairie and savanna habitat, involvement in the habitat project during the lake renovation at Anita, recipient of the 2002 State Parks Peer Award and the 2003

"Natural Resource Conservationist of the Year" award, and two-time nominee for the Governor's Golden Dome team awards.

"I am anxious to begin working with the rangers and managers in the parks located in southeast Iowa," says Basten. "And I am looking forward to serving the visitors of the parks in this region."

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IOWA FISHING REPORT

For the week of July 20, 2004

www.iowadnr.com

For current information on fishing conditions for your lake or area, contact the office in that district. Phone numbers are listed with each district report.

Southeast

Mississippi River (Pools 16 – 19): Fishing on the Mississippi River has generally been good. The water temperature at Muscatine on Pool 16 is 77 degrees F and the river pool stage is 11.03 and is expected to remain stable the next few days. On **Pool 16**, catfishing has been up and down; try the early morning and evening hours using shrimp, crawlers or leeches. Bluegill fishing has been fair to good in the backwaters and around the docks near Sunset Marina and near Credit Island. Crappie fishing has been fair to good in the backwaters. Fishing for channel catfish has also been up and down in Pools 16-19. Catfish are biting best in the early morning and evening hours on shrimp, night crawlers, and leeches. Bluegill and crappie fishing has been good in the backwater areas. Walleye and sauger are fair to good around the wingdams and in deeper holes with rock.

Lake Odessa (Louisa County): Good for crappies on minnows.

Lake Darling (Washington County): Catfishing has been fair to good at dusk. Concentrate efforts along the campground island and along the southeast shoreline between the beach and the campground. The catfish are spending the day in the creek channel and moving up into the shallow water to feed at dark.

Lake Belva Deer (Keokuk County): Still plenty of nice bluegills to be caught. Look for them in the trees and down about 12 feet in the water column where they are escaping the hot sunny weather in the cooler water of the thermocline.

Lake Rathbun (Appanoose County): Walleyes have been hitting on crank baits or night crawlers trolled or drifted over the underwater reefs or rocky points. Crappies have been hitting on minnows fished in deeper water. Channel catfish have been hitting on night crawlers and stink bait.

Lake Sugema (Van Buren County): Bluegills have been hitting on small jigs tipped with a chunk of night crawler. Largemouth bass have been hitting in the evenings.

Lake Miami (Monroe County): Crappies and bluegills have been biting on small jigs fished in the standing timber. Largemouth bass have been hitting on artificial lures. Fishing from a boat has produced better results than fishing from shore.

Lake Wapello (Davis County) – Largemouth bass have been hitting on plastic worms and spinner baits. Shoreline structure such as sunken trees or pallet structures have been the best areas. Bluegills have been hitting on small jigs fished around the lily pads

Lake Macbride (Johnson County): Some crappies are being caught on jig/minnows around the deeper brush piles. A few catfish are also being caught on crawlers and chicken livers.

Coralville Reservoir (Johnson County): Some channel catfish are being caught on dead shad and crawdads.

Pleasant Creek (Linn County): Perch fishing is excellent on worms fished on the bottom and leeches under bobbers. Channel catfish are biting on stink bait, chicken livers and crawlers on the bottom. Largemouth bass fishing has been good on numerous live/artificial baits. Best catches tend to be around rocks, such as the jetties and the dam. Remember there is an 18-inch minimum length limit on largemouth bass at Pleasant Creek.

Kent Park Lake (Johnson County): Bluegills continue to be caught on worms. The channel catfish bite is good early and late in the day on chicken livers and crawlers. Some 10- to 14-inch bass are being caught on various lures/live bait.

Diamond Lake (Poweshiek County): Fishing is good for channel catfish on crawlers and bluegills are being caught on small worms. Look for the bluegills around structure and on the weed lines.

Iowa Lake (Iowa County): Some channel catfish are being caught on chicken livers and bluegills are being caught on worms.

Hannen Lake (Benton County): Channel catfish fishing is good and they are being caught on chicken livers and crawlers. Some bluegills are also being caught on worms or flies.

Rodgers Lake (Benton County): The channel catfish fishing is good on chicken livers and crawlers. Bluegills are also being taken on worms.

Skunk River (Washington County): The river level is really starting to drop. Last week's nice weather has been bringing out the anglers and the catfishing has started to pick up. Creek chubs and stink bait are the best bets. Flatheads are being taken on sunfish and bullheads.

Cedar River (Louisa County): Fishing is starting to pick up again. Look for the catfish along the high cut banks where the males are still guarding the young and along the brush piles in the deeper water for the females.

Iowa River (Washington and Louisa counties): The river is steadily dropping, however water released from Coralville is keeping it from dropping too drastically. Catfishing has been hit and miss. Minnows and stink bait seem to be producing the most fish.

Wapsipinicon River (Linn County): Smallmouth bass are being caught on live bait and on spinners.

For more information on fishing in southeast Iowa, call the regional office in Brighton at 319-694-2430.

Northeast

Mississippi River Pools 9-15: The water temperature at Guttenberg is 78 degrees F and water clarity is good. With continued stable water conditions, fishing remains excellent in most areas. Walleye fishing is fantastic in **Pools 9 through 11**. In **Pool 9**, Minnesota Slough and the mouth of Desoto Bay are good for walleyes. Drifting leeches is the hot ticket; however, night crawlers are also very good bait to try. The wing dams in **Pool 11** are also popular with walleyes, and a few saugers are also being picked up. Anglers are using three-way rigs tipped with a worm or leech or trolling crank baits for walleyes off the wing dams. When fishing wing dams, concentrate your efforts on the upstream side of the wing dam for best success. Bluegills are biting well in **Pools 9-11**. A small jig tipped with a minnow or worm is the lure of choice for this hungry panfish. Concentrate your efforts near rocky outcroppings or spillway areas for best results. A few anglers have been doing very well on bluegills fishing along snags in shallow water with a little current. Freshwater drum fishing continues to be excellent using a simple sliding sinker and worm in **Pools 9-11**. Drum can be found in nearly any area with moderate current. Channel catfishing has also been good using stink bait. In **Pool 9**, try areas near New Albin in Minnesota Slough. In **Pool 10**, channel catfish are being caught in Harpers Slough near Harpers Ferry. In **Pool 11**, try fishing for hungry cats in Hurricane Slough near Waupeton. Largemouth and smallmouth bass fishing has been very good in **Pools 9-11**. The closing dams at the head of sloughs in **Pool 10** can be big bass producers. Fish small spinners or crank baits along rocky banks for the best action. The water level at Bellevue is 7.8 feet and temperature is 77 degrees F.

In **Pools 12-15**, freshwater drum fishing is excellent on crawlers fished along the wing dams and side sloughs, and channel catfishing has been good using cheese or stink (dip) baits fished in areas with current. If you don't get a bite in 10 to 15 minutes, move to another area. Largemouth bass are hitting top-water lures, spinner and crank baits or live baits such as minnows and crawlers fished around woody structure, vegetation and off of rocks in the backwater areas and along the main channel border. Bluegill fishing is good in a wide range of areas in **Pools 12-15** including brush piles or vegetation in the backwaters or in areas of slack current in the side sloughs or the main channel border. Crappie fishing is fair using minnows fished next to woody structure or vegetation out of the current.

Fishing in the **Upper Iowa** (Howard and Winneshiek) and **Turkey Rivers** (Howard) is picking up as water levels recede and clarity improves. Anglers report catching smallmouth bass.

Maquoketa River (Delaware): Smallmouth and largemouth bass fishing has been good below the Marion Street Bridge in Manchester on downstream. Grass carp fishing is good below Manchester on a jig tipped with half a crawler.

Big Woods and South Prairie Lakes (Black Hawk): Bluegill fishing is fair on worms and wax worms. The best fishing is in the early morning and late evening hours.

Meyer Lake (Winneshiek): Bluegill fishing is good on night crawlers. Flip a top water lure along the shore for largemouth bass. Channel catfishing is good on chicken liver suspended close to the bottom.

Volga Lake (Fayette): Fishing is good for bluegills using a night crawler suspended under a bobber. Crappies are biting on jigs suspended 10 feet below a bobber. Largemouth bass are hitting top water lures fished along the shore, and anglers are

catching perch on night crawlers. Channel catfish are biting on chicken liver or crawlers fished off the dike.

Lake Hendricks (Howard): Bluegill fishing is good on red worms fished in 12 to 14 feet of water. Largemouth bass fishing is excellent on top-water lures fished close to shore. Channel catfishing is good on chicken liver.

Anglers at **South Prairie Lake** (Black Hawk) are catching largemouth bass on a variety of artificial lures.

Trout fishing is excellent and streams are clear and fishable. The **Turkey River** at the Big Spring Trout Hatchery is hot for brown trout. River access is difficult, but anglers have been carrying out limits of 10- to 12-inch brown trout the past week. For current trout stocking information on northeast Iowa trout streams, call the trout stocking hotline at 563-927-5736. You can also access the proposed trout stocking calendar through the internet at www.iowadnr.com and go to the fish and fishing web pages.

For information on fishing in northeast Iowa, call the regional office in Manchester at 563-927-3276.

Northwest

Spirit Lake (Dickinson County): Walleye fishing has slowed down. Anglers trolling with crankbaits in 18 to 22 feet of water are reporting a few nice fish. Anglers using leeches and crawlers are catching fish along weedlines and rockpiles. Sorting is required to catch legal fish. Largemouth bass fishing is fair with anglers catching fish around docks and thick vegetation. Smallmouth bass action is best early mornings and evenings as the fish come up on the shallower rock piles to feed. Smallmouth are also being caught on leeches and crawlers by anglers fishing for walleyes. Yellow perch fishing has picked up, with anglers catching fish in the Buffalo Run area, Anglers Bay and along the south end. Use small jigs tipped with waxworms or wigglers while anchored. Buffalo Run and Reeds Run perch anglers are also picking up some crappies.

West Okoboji (Dickinson County): Good action on big bluegills continues in 8 to 16 feet of water. Try ice fishing jigs tipped with a garden worm. Remember to keep your baits on the small side for 'gills. Good smallmouth bass action continues over the rock piles.

East Okoboji (Dickinson County): Channel catfish action has been fast, with traditional catfish baits producing nice stringers of fish.

Silver Lake (Dickinson County): Good opportunity exists to catch keeper size cats from Silver.

Little Sioux River (Buena Vista and Clay counties): Channel catfish action is good throughout the river system.

Lake Pahoja (Lyon County): Anglers are catching catfish at night using traditional catfish baits.

Big Sioux River (Lyon County): Anglers are catching cats below Klondike dam.

Willow Creek (Osceola County): Largemouth bass fishing is excellent. Using floating soft plastic baits over the vegetative mats will produce fish. Remember there is a 15-inch minimum length limit. Bluegill and crappie anglers can look for fish along the rock reef on the west end.

Storm Lake (Buena Vista County): Fishing for channel catfish has been on a variety of baits, especially stinkbait, night crawlers and shrimp. People have been having

good luck both from shore and drifting. Anglers are catching a few white bass and walleyes in the inlet area and off of Starr Park.

Black Hawk Lake (Sac County): Channel catfish fishing has been fair. Anglers have been successful drifting skinned chubs and fishing with night crawlers in the inlet area.

North Twin Lake (Calhoun County): Anglers are catching a few big bluegills on small jigs and wax worms.

Brushy Creek (Webster County): Sunfish have moved into deeper water (10 to 15 feet). Try fishing off the bottom or work around trees in deeper water and fish at a 20-foot depth. Use wax worms or a piece of worm. Bass are hitting on plastic lures, and a few crappies have been caught on minnows.

Clear Lake (Cerro Gordo County): Walleye fishing has been good. Try jig fishing with live bait or trolling around the rock reefs. Remember there is a 14-inch minimum length limit. White bass are being caught from docks, Ventura Grade and around reefs. Channel catfish are biting on chicken liver and dead chubs. Fish along the north shore rushes and the Ventura Grade. The yellow bass bite is starting to pick up. The north shore and Ventura Grade, using minnows and cut bait in the early mornings, are producing the best action. Bullheads are hitting night crawlers fished near the bottom.

Beeds Lake (Franklin County): Crappie fishing is good; fish are suspended in the main basin. Drift or troll small jigs to locate fish. Fishing the end of the jetties is the best place to shore fish the crappies. Crappies are running 7 to 9 inches.

Lake Cornelia (Wright County): Yellow perch fishing is fair to good for 8- to 10-inch fish. Fish the north end with crawlers and minnows. Channel catfish are hitting on chicken livers and stink bait.

For more information on fishing in northwest Iowa, call the regional office in Spirit Lake at 712-336-1840.

Southwest

Viking (Montgomery): Crappie and bluegill fishing is fair around aerators. Channel catfish fishing is good using liver. Largemouth bass fishing has picked up in the evening around structure.

Cold Springs (Cass): Fishing is fair for crappies around the aerators. Channel catfish fishing is good.

Manawa (Pottawattamie): Fishing is excellent for channel catfish on Boy Scout Island. Walleyes are being caught on the west shore along the rocks.

Orient (Adair): Channel catfish fishing is fair in evenings using liver.

Greenfield (Adair): Channel catfish fishing is good toward evening.

Mormon Trail (Adair): Walleye fishing is good using crankbaits or jigs. The 7 to 9-inch crappies have moved away from shore and into 6 to 8 feet of water. Fishing is good for largemouth bass and bluegills. Channel catfish are biting on night crawlers or liver.

Prairie Rose (Shelby): Fishing is fair for 7-inch crappies in 6 to 8 feet of water using jigs and minnows around rocks and woody structure. Bass fishing is good. Anglers are catching channel catfish on liver.

DeSoto Bend (Harrison): Walleye and crappie fishing is fair. Walleyes are averaging 15 to 16 inches. Anglers are also catching good numbers of largemouth bass. Carp are being caught near shore.

Littlefield Lake (Audubon): Fishing is good for large bluegills near shore with night crawlers. Channel catfish fishing is good.

Willow (Harrison): Largemouth bass fishing is fair in the evenings around structure. Bluegills are biting along weed edges. Channel Catfish are being caught in the evenings using chicken liver.

Southwest Iowa Farm Ponds: Channel catfish, bluegill and largemouth bass fishing is good. Remember to ask permission and clean up after yourself.

Big Creek (Polk): Bluegill fishing has slowed, however fish 8 inches or larger are still being caught. Crappie fishing has been spotty, with most fish taken in deeper water. Channel catfish fishing has been good using night crawlers and cut and stink baits.

Lake Ahquabi (Warren): Channel catfish fishing is good with cut and stink baits. Bluegill and redear sunfish fishing has been fair to good using jigs or hook/bobber combinations with worms and waxworms. Largemouth bass fishing is fair, although most fish are sub-legal.

Hooper Lake (Warren): Bluegill fishing has been fair using worms and jigs. Largemouth bass fishing has been fair using buzz baits and surface lures.

Hickory Grove (Story): Bluegill fishing is good using worms. Channel catfish fishing is good on night crawlers and largemouth bass fishing has been fair to good using top-water and buzz baits. Crappie fishing is good in deeper water, although fishing is spotty.

Don Williams (Boone): Channel catfishing is good to excellent using night crawlers and chicken livers. Crappie fishing has been fair using minnows and jigs with most fish caught in deeper water. Bluegill fishing is slow, although some nice fish have been caught. Largemouth bass fishing has been fair on surface plugs and crank baits.

Rock Creek Lake (Jasper): Channel catfish fishing is good along the shorelines and shallow water. Crappie fishing is fair using mini-jigs with yellow skirts, although fish have moved to deeper water. Bluegill fishing has been slow.

Easter Lake (Polk): Channel catfish fishing is good with most caught on night crawlers and stink baits. Crappie fishing has been slow to fair, with jigs and minnows. Largemouth bass fishing has been slow to fair also, with the best catches along the face of the dam.

Red Rock (Marion): White bass fishing is good in various areas of the reservoir. Channel catfish fishing has been fair, with the better areas in bays and coves.

Red Rock tailwater (Marion): Channel catfish fishing is good using traditional baits, and a few nice walleyes have been caught. White bass have been biting on jigs and minnows, but fishing is slow.

Roberts Creek (Marion): Crappie fishing has been fair using jigs with minnows and/or night crawlers, and channel catfish have been hitting on night crawlers.

Saylorville Lake (Polk): White bass fishing has been good trolling crank baits casting small spoons from shore. Channel catfish fishing has been fair to good with traditional baits, with one of the better areas in the spillway outlet from Big Creek Lake. Crappie fishing has been fair using jigs/minnows.

Saylorville Lake tailwater/river (Polk): White bass and channel catfish fishing is good below Saylorville Reservoir. Flathead catfish fishing is beginning to pick up with some nice fish reported from the tailwater of Saylorville.

Three Mile (Union): Channel catfish are being caught with a variety of baits all over the lake. Crappies are in 8 to 14 feet of water. Bluegill can be caught on small crawlers or wax worms in 6 to 10 feet of water or in the flooded coves.

Twelve Mile (Union): Fishing for channel catfish is good using night crawlers or liver. Walleyes are being caught using leeches.

Icaria (Adams): Fishing is good for catfish with all types of bait.

Green Valley (Union): Bluegill can be caught in the structure with crawlers or wax worms. Channel catfish can be caught in the bays using dip baits and liver.

Little River (Decatur): Some crappies are biting over rocks and in flooded trees in 8 to 10 feet of water. Catfish can be caught in the bays using liver or night crawlers. Some walleyes are being taken.

West Lake Osceola (Clarke): Largemouth bass fishing is excellent in the timbered coves and along the dam. Channel catfish fishing is good using liver.

Pioneer (Page): Nice size bluegill can be caught at this county area park.

Fogle Lake (Ringgold): Some bluegill can be caught at the west end of the dam or around the jetties. Channel catfish can be caught in the rocks or shallow bays. The lake is currently being lowered to improve fish growth but is still accessible for fishing.

For more information on fishing in southwest Iowa, call the regional office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.

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